

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Governor Signs Booster Seats Bill



*Bill requires booster seats for children too small for adult seatbelts*

HARTFORD- **Governor M. Jodi Rell** signed legislation into law this afternoon that will mandate the use of child restraint systems in cars for children, depending on both the age and weight of the child. The measure passed the Senate and the state House overwhelmingly during the previous legislative session. **Representative Themis Klarides** (R-Derby) was a co-sponsor of the measure, and was present for the bill signing this afternoon in the Governor's Executive Chambers in the State Capitol.

"An Act Concerning Child Restraint Systems" requires children under six years old and weighing less than 60 pounds to use approved car restraint systems, children under one year old or weighing less than 20 pounds to use rear-facing car restraint system and children in booster seats to be secured by seat safety belts with shoulder belts.

"I am very pleased that Governor Rell has signed this important child safety measure into law," said **Representative Klarides**. "This represents several years' work on my part and on the part of many of my colleagues in trying to prevent tragedies from motor vehicles where children are injured or killed because they were improperly fastened into the car. I believe this law will save many lives."

Klarides noted that a child must be in a child restraint seat until they are four years of age or forty pounds. After that, they need a belt positioning booster seat to be properly situated in a car seat for the belt restraint to adequately protect them. After a child is over 60 lbs. they can fit into an adult car seat properly.

She also observed that according to several credible studies, children in this weight and age gap are at an elevated risk to injury when they are improperly restrained in an adult car seat. Adult lap belts will ride up into the abdominal area, and shoulder belts will cut into the neck of a child so restrained in a serious car accident. This makes these safety devices more likely to cause injury in an accident than prevent it.

The new law goes into effect on October 1, 2005.